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July 2, 1977

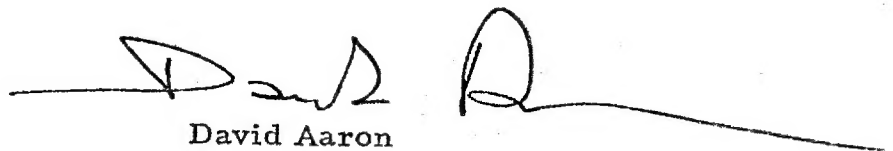
MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Director, Arms Control and Disarm-
ament Agency
The Director, Federal Preparedness Agency
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: US-Soviet Civil Defense Working Group

Attached is a paper on the proposed US-Soviet Civil Defense Working Group. The paper was prepared by an interagency working group chaired by the NSC with representatives from all of the above agencies.

The paper will be discussed at a Special Coordination Committee meeting at a time to be announced.



David Aaron
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

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A PAPER ON
U.S.-SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE WORKING GROUP

June 23, 1977

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SECRETU.S.-SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE WORKING GROUPI. INTRODUCTION

During the March 1977 Moscow discussions between Secretary Vance and the Soviet leadership, the U.S. raised several issues related to SALT, one of which was the possible strategic impact of civil defense programs on the two sides. There was no substantive discussion of this issue; however, the Soviets did agree to consider the establishment of a working group that would engage in a dialogue on civil defense. The Soviets are now waiting for the U.S. to propose an agenda for that working group.

While the U.S. motivation in raising this issue was a concern about the potential impact of an unconstrained buildup in the Soviet civil defense program on the perception of the strategic balance, U.S. objectives in a U.S.-Soviet civil defense dialogue are as yet undefined. In light of this situation, this paper is designed to provide the necessary background information and analysis to facilitate a decision on: (a) the initial U.S. objectives in such a dialogue, and (b) the U.S. position, agenda, and timing for the initial discussions.

II. PURPOSE AND EXTENT OF CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAMSA. Differences in Definitions

Discussions with the USSR for negotiating limits on civil defense efforts should, of necessity, first address the definitional differences associated with these efforts. The concept of civil defense includes continuity of government (protection of leadership), continuity of operations of important economic facilities through hardening and relocation, protection of the population, and planning for reconstitution and recovery following nuclear attack. In the USSR, such activities are termed "civil defense," while the comparable program in the U.S. is termed "civil emergency preparedness." It is also important to note that civil defense capabilities have relevance for natural disaster preparedness, and that there is a public recognition of this aspect of the programs.

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The Director
Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

29 June 1977

Dear Staser,

In response to your request for our current estimate of the state of Soviet Civil Defense, I am forwarding you a copy of the Civil Defense section of a briefing I recently gave to the Joint Economic Committee. I hope this meets your needs, but if questions still remain, do not hesitate to ask us for more detail.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Stansfield Turner", written over a horizontal line.

STANSFIELD TURNER

Staser Holcomb
Rear Admiral, USN
Military Assistant
Office of the Secretary
of Defense

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE S-17.3)



Washington, D.C. 20505

TS 972008

29 JUN 1977

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Yours,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

Staser Holcomb
Rear Admiral, USN
Military Assistant
Office of the Secretary
of Defense

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DOC. NO. TS 772008		DATE DOCUMENT RECEIVED
DOC. DATE 23 June 77		6/28/77
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